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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

[0021] The shield 302 preferably has a cap-like configuration, and includes a top 308, sidewall 310 and an inner cavity 312. A central opening 314 extends from the top 308 to the inner cavity 312. The opening 314 is preferably located in the center of top 308 so as to be substantially in alignment with impeller longitudinal bore 223. The shield 302 also includes two cut openings 316, 318 that each extend from a portion of the sidewall 310 to the inner cavity 312. The cut openings 316, 318 are preferably machined and dimensioned such as to serve as windows to expose portions of the impeller shaft 224. Additionally, each of the cut openings 316, 318 are preferably machined directly opposite from one another so that equal grinding can be applied to the two exposed portions of the shaft 224. As will be appreciated, the cut openings 316, 318 may also be cut out of or punched into the shield 302 or formed in any one of numerous other fashions. Moreover, although only two cut openings are depicted, various other numbers of openings can be employed so long as the openings only expose the shaft 224. The shield 302 is preferably constructed from A2 or O1 steel, a nickel-based superalloy, such as INCONEL® available through Special Metal Corporation of Huntington, WV, Inconel or one of numerous other relatively hard materials that may be difficult to grind by tools that are used to grind the impeller. It will be further appreciated that the shield 302 and the position of the cut openings 316, 318 are appropriately sized and shaped depending on the dimensions of the particular impeller and impeller shaft to be grinded.